

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 8 and 10-22 are pending in this application.

Withdrawn Claims

Claims 2-4, 7 and 8 have been withdrawn from consideration pursuant to a restriction requirement. These claims depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 which is generic and submitted to be allowable for the reasons stated below. Therefore, these claims are also submitted to be allowable. Accordingly, rejoinder of claims 2-4, 7, and 8 is respectfully requested.

The Rejection under Prior Art.

Claims 1, 5, 6, and 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,899,008 (“LaPierre et al.”).

Claim 1 is amended to substantially incorporate the recitations of claim 9, which is deemed to be allowable.¹ Claim 9 is cancelled pursuant to this amendment. Claim 10 is amended to conform to the amendment of claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 and all claims depending therefrom are submitted to be allowable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

¹ Under the heading of “Allowable Subject Matter” the Office Action refers to a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph set forth in the office action. This appears to be a clerical error, as Applicants do not see any formal problems with claim 9, nor does the office action identify any such problems. Also, there is no detailed rejection of claims 16-22. Applicants herein presume that any such rejections are obviated by the amendments herein.

CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons stated above all of the pending claims are submitted to be in condition for allowance, the same being respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted



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